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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

LIFE AND CHARACTER OF

EDWARD Y. PARSONS

AUGUST 1ST 1876.

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Edward Y. Parsons

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

EDWARD YOUNG PARSONS,

(A REPRESENTATIVE FROM KENTUCKY,)

DELIVERED IN THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IN THE SENATE

August 1, 1876.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONGRESS.

U. S.

Forty-fourth Congress, Second Session.

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JOINT RESOLUTION authorizing the printing and distribution of the memorial addresses on the life and character of the late EDWARD YOUNG PARSONS, a Representative from the State of Kentucky.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of Americe in Congress assembled, That four thousand five hundred copies of the memorial addresses on the life and character of the late EDWARD YOUNG PARSONS, a Representative from the State of Kentucky, be printed, one thousand copies for the the use of the Senate and three thousand five hundred copies for the use of the House of Representatives; and that the Secretary of the Treasury have printed a steel-engraving of Mr. Parsons, to accompany the same, to defray the costs of which, the sum of six hundred dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Approved Febrnary 18, 1878.

ADDRESSES

ON THE

DEATH OF EDWARD YOUNG PARSONS.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE.

SATURDAY, *July 8, 1876.*

Mr. KNOTT. I rise to perform the most melancholy duty that has ever devolved upon me in the course of my public life: to announce to this House the sudden and unexpected death of my colleague, Hon. EDWARD Y. PARSONS. I move the adoption of the resolutions which I send to the Clerk.

The Clerk reads as follows:

Resolved, That a committee of seven members be appointed by the Speaker of the House to take order for superintending the funeral of Hon. EDWARD Y. PARSONS, late a member of this body from the State of Kentucky.

Resolved, That as a mark of the respect entertained by the House for the memory of Hon. EDWARD Y. PARSONS his remains be removed to Louisville, Kentucky, in charge of the Sergeant-at-Arms and attended by the said committee, who shall have full power to carry this resolution into effect.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these proceedings to the Senate.

Resolved, That as an additional mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the House do now adjourn.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

The SPEAKER *pro tempore* announced that in pursuance of the first resolution he had appointed the following committee, viz: Mr. BLACKBURN, Mr. HOPKINS, Mr. WHITE, Mr. GILBERT C.

WALKER, Mr. FORT, Mr. LAWRENCE, and Mr. JOHN B. CLARKE. And then, in accordance with the concluding resolution, the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, *August 1, 1876.*

The hour of four o'clock p. m. having arrived, the House, under its previous order, proceeded to pay the last honors to the memory of Mr. EDWARD YOUNG PARSONS, late a Representative from the State of Kentucky.

Address of Mr. BOONE, of Kentucky.

Mr. SPEAKER, I arise to perform a melancholy duty: to announce the death and pay a humble tribute of respect to the memory of my late colleague, Hon. EDWARD Y. PARSONS, who departed this life at his residence in this city on the 8th day of July at about two o'clock p. m. Mr. PARSONS was born in Jefferson County, Kentucky, on the 12th day of December, 1842, and was therefore in his thirty-fourth year when he died. He was the son of Rev. C. B. Parsons, who was widely known as one of the most eloquent pulpit speakers in the West. His father having moved to the city of Louisville while he was yet very young, Edward at an early age entered the public schools of that city and manifested a peculiar fondness for books, and generally stood at the head of his class.

He afterward entered the male high school of the city, where he prosecuted his studies with diligence, and at the early age of nineteen graduated with the highest honors. Shortly thereafter he became a professor in the school, which position he filled with great

credit for about three years; during which time he studied law, and in 1864 resigned his position in order to enter the law school of that city, which was one of the best in the country, having for its professors such men as Judges Pirtle, Muir, and Bullock. The regular course in this school was of two years' duration, but the deceased mastered it in one year, graduating with distinction.

He entered the profession as a practicing attorney in 1865, and by his energy, talents, and superior attainments soon won for himself honorable distinction at the bar and drew around himself a large number of admirers and warm personal friends, who felt proud, and justly so, of the success of their young townsman; and permit me to say, Mr. Speaker, that it was no small matter for a young man in so short a time to rise to distinction at the Louisville bar, composed as it was then and is now of men of marked ability and profound legal learning.

In 1874 Mr. PARSONS was elected a member of the Forty-fourth Congress, by a very large majority, from a district where resided many able and distinguished men, which is an indication to us of the estimate placed upon him by the people among whom he had been reared and lived from childhood.

Although a citizen of the same State, it was not my good fortune to enjoy an intimate acquaintance with him previous to the beginning of this session of Congress. It is true, I knew of him as one of the rising young men of my State; but I had no opportunity to observe those peculiar traits of disposition and character which distinguished him as a man of rare social qualities and marked him as a man of more than common ability. But upon a more intimate acquaintance with him I found him to be all that his most intimate friends claimed for him—brave, generous, open-hearted, noble, a man of rare cultivation and refined sensibilities. He was a man of

extensive reading and remarkable memory. He seemed to be as familiar with the poets and the polite literature of the age as most men are with the rudiments of a common education. He was a good lawyer and a vigorous and accurate thinker; in a word, Mr. Speaker, he was an accomplished gentleman.

He entered this Hall at the beginning of this session of Congress full of life and hope, with far better prospects of long life than most of us. Young, buoyant, of powerful frame and commanding presence, there seemed to be before him a long life of usefulness to his State and country; and who that saw him then would have supposed that so soon we should be called upon to mourn his death? How well I remember the look of astonishment and almost of consternation that settled upon the countenances of the members of this body when the news reached us that he was dead. How anxiously the inquiry passed from one to another if it were not possible that there was some mistake. How unwilling we were to believe it true, and how sadly we all felt when we were forced to realize the truth of the solemn announcement.

His death was sudden and unexpected. Almost without a note of warning he was stricken down, his large, generous heart ceased to beat, and his spirit ushered into the presence of that almighty and all-wise Being who hath the issues of life and death in His own hands. Almost in the twinkling of an eye the strong man was brought low, furnishing us another instance of the truth of the saying "In the midst of life we are in death."

Mr. Speaker, perhaps silence would become me best in the presence of so solemn an event, for nothing we can say can at all affect the condition of the dead; but may I be permitted to say that these notes of warning as they fall ever and anon upon our ears should not pass unheeded by us? They are the palpable evidences of our

own mortality; they should remind us that we too must sooner or later pass the portals of the grave; that we too are passing rapidly in the footsteps of him whose memory we this day honor; and that ere the cycle of another moon you, sir, or I, or some other member of this body, may be called to pass the same solemn and dreadful ordeal through which two of our brother-members have been called to pass since we assembled here.

Sir, in the presence of such realities how empty are all earthly honors, how hollow all earthly enjoyments, and how utterly insignificant all earthly ambitions! for, at a time when we least expect it, the dark-winged messenger of death hovers over us and all our earthly hopes vanish as chaff before a driving wind. Truly hath it been said, "As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it and it is gone, and the place thereof shall know it no more."

Although Mr. PARSONS died away from his home and among comparative strangers, everything that medical skill, the promptings of friendship, and the ties of a noble brotherhood could suggest were resorted to in order to arrest the arm of death and save him from the fatal blow. But, sir, the grim messenger would listen to no parley, would take no denial. The grief, the woe, the bruised heart, the crushed hopes of a stricken wife, the helplessness, the innocence, the unconscious grief of children could not appease him. But amid them all the silver cord was loosed, the golden bowl was broken, the pitcher was broken at the fountain, the wheel was broken at the cistern, and the dust returned to the earth as it was; and the spirit returned unto God who gave it.

He leaves behind him a tender and affectionate wife and two small children, for whom our sympathies go out this day, and with them we mingle our tears of sorrow over the sad event which has

deprived them of a husband and father and us of a friend and brother.

It would be wiser and better for us all, Mr. Speaker, to think more seriously than we do of the uncertainty of this life, and contemplate more frequently the grandeur, the glory, and durability of that better and brighter existence which has been made possible to us through the mercy of Him who ruleth both in heaven and in earth.

I offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this House has heard with deep regret of the death of Hon. EDWARD Y. PARSONS, a member of this House from the State of Kentucky.

Resolved, That as a testimony of respect to his memory the officers and members of this House will wear the usual badge of mourning for the space of thirty days.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by the Clerk of this House to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That the Clerk be directed to communicate a copy of these proceedings to the Senate, and that as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased this House do now adjourn.

Address of Mr. JONES, of Kentucky.

Mr. SPEAKER,

Pallida mors æquo pulsat pede pauperum tabernas regumque turres.

Death is so common in the land that we can but seldom if ever truly apply the lesson he would teach or give a passing thought how soon he may knock at our own door. He may in an instant blight the beauteous rosebud, wither the fairest flower of the garden, shiver the giant oak of the forest, tear away the venerable forms of our households, snatch from our embrace the tender idols of our hearts, or strike down at our very side splendid young manhood,

the highest image of God himself, and although we feel the shock, bow our heads, and look with awe and wonder, yet soon again, O! how soon, does the world, with its duties, its pleasures, and its cares, absorb and lead us on in the same accustomed way! But this inevitable and dread visitor heeds not our ways nor respects our condition. In his quiver he has an arrow for all; he strikes the low and the high, the bad and the good, the poor and the rich; he calls at every habitation, from the lowly hovel in its poverty to the majestic Capitol in its grandeur, and thus with impartial step and unerring aim marches on forever. In the hour of our grief and in the weakness of our nature, unmindful of the divine economy, which respects neither person nor condition, we cry out, O! why, why could not the great God, the Giver of life and death, have spared my loved one as a merciful exception?

Man is ever taught the truth, but heeds it not, that life is death, creation is dissolution, and none can tell how soon the latter may follow the former. How little do we remember that as we begin to live we begin to die. In the structure and economy of life every blow we strike, every thought we think, is accompanied by the death and disintegration of a certain amount of muscular and nervous tissue as its necessary condition, and thus every action of our corporeal life from its beginning to its close takes place at the expense of the vitality of a certain amount of organized matter; and yet from the beginning of the life of man to this day of how little importance to his fellows is his death.

Epictetus, the Phrygian philosopher, went forth one day and saw a woman weeping for her pitcher of earth that was broken, and he went forth the next day and saw a woman weeping for her son that was dead, and when he returned to his house he exclaimed, "*Heri vidi fragilem frangi, hodie vidi mortalem mori.*" Yesterday a vase

was broken, to-day a man dies, and one may be of as little consequence as the other. The philosopher of Uz in his affliction exclaimed:

> Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

Again it is said:

> Man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets.

Mr. Speaker, has one from our midst been suddenly removed? Does death make no impression here, although his shaft has smitten us like the flash of the lightning? Is the pale monster to be regarded with no more terror than one going to sleep, the vanishing of a cloud, the decay of a flower, the rolling up of a scroll, the folding of a tent, or the gentle approach of night?

Sir, but a few days ago the stalwart and splendid form of Kentucky's young statesman walked and sat in this Hall almost the very perfection of manly vigor, grace, and elegance. Like Absalom, the praise of Israel, "from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him." Methinks I see him now, sir, as was his wont to approach us with that stately mein, open hand, rich voice, and frank cordiality which seemed to belong to him alone, which indeed dignified his race, and presented in himself a brilliant type of the young manhood, courage, and gallantry of the noble State he represented. His morning salutation was to me, sir, a pleasure for the day. Others may not, but I do miss him.

How sudden, Mr. Speaker, was his taking off. When the news came and rang through this House we could not have been more appalled if a bolt from heaven at noon-day with the sun in his glory had rent asunder the dome of the Capitol. When but an

hour after I entered his chamber and laid my hand upon that majestic brow, pulseless and cold as marble, how truly was it manifest "In the midst of life we are in death."

Mr. Speaker, what a transition! Think of it. At twelve o'clock, high noon, this man stood in noble stature and perfect health, with every apparent promise of length of days and increasing honors, and at twelve o'clock at night he was dead, his body embalmed and on its way with congressional escort to his home for burial. Thus was our young brother stricken down and spirited away. Death indeed found in him "a shining mark."

How vain and transitory is life in its highest aspect; how futile man's ambition; how apparently worthless all his labors; how his brightest hopes are suddenly blasted! Here was high intellectual endowment, cultivated in the best schools of learning, chastened and accomplished by classical lore from the great old masters, whom he loved to repeat and praise. Here was solid learning in jurisprudence and eminence already in professional reputation and honors. Here was political ability of rare merit, just developing into large and comprehensive statesmanship. Here was pure character, admired and loved from birth to death. Here, too, if indeed it become eulogy, was a combination of personal lineaments with a grand outline that attracted the gaze of every beholder; a face as beautiful as the Apollo and a form that Phidias or Praxiteles would have chosen for a model. No prouder step ever graced the Avenue, no manlier person ever sat in the Capitol. All this vanished and gone, as it were, like the blaze of a meteor. Thus goes the glory of the world.

O man!

Boast not thyself of to-morrow: for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

Mr. Speaker, when our friends die we are apt to inquire or conjecture what were their last thoughts or expressions or how they received the final message. In what manner our young brother, so full of happiness and hope, welcomed the sudden and unexpected messenger we know not. Whether he had time to cast a look behind or a look beyond, we know not. It is said, sir, and it is a happy thought, that when man is about to be gathered to his people or go to his fathers visions of bright scenes and glorious companies gleam before his expiring gaze. Such happy close would have been in keeping with the life of our friend; and let us think that if in that final moment he could have reached our ears he would have called to us:

> Saw ye not now a blessed troop
> Invite me to a banquet, whose bright faces
> Cast thousand beams upon me like the sun?

May we not trust that our loved companion so departed was so received, and is now seated in that glorious assembly in the realms of bliss?

Mr. Speaker, death itself is not without its consolations. Ecclesiastes taught that "a good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of one's birth." Lord Bacon said: "Death hath this also, that it openeth the gate to good fame and extinguisheth envy." If a man die, shall he not live again? Death is but the end of care, and opens the door to that better and true life where He presides who, greater than all, has pronounced the glorious promise to man, "I am the resurrection and the life."

But, Mr. Speaker, my poor words are vain. I bring no fitting eulogy; I claim no philosophy of life and death. I teach no moral from this sad bereavement. Every heart must draw its own lesson, and that is better felt than expressed. I only know that our valiant

young brother has gone from these Halls forever. Kentucky's budding promise, her blushing pride under national honors, has been returned to her in a casket for the grave. Her metropolis—the city of his home—has honored him with a funeral pageant becoming a king, and loving hands have laid him away in the lap of his mother earth.

Mr. Speaker, Kentucky will cherish her distinguished dead, young and old, and ever honor those who honor her. Though blessed in climate and soil, prolific and pre-eminent in the productions of earth and animal, high advanced in the improvements and embellishments of civilized life, proud of all she possesses, yet, like the Roman mother, "her jewels are her sons." In coming time, when she shall build a pantheon to her great, the marble image of this younger son may perhaps be seen and admired like that of the beautiful young Augustus in the Vatican. Peace, peace, to his ashes! consolation to his friends and loved ones! gentle flowers for his tomb; and may sweet memories ever linger around the name of EDWARD YOUNG PARSONS!

O beate Sexti, vitæ summa brevis spem nos vetat inchoare longam.

Address of Mr. MAISH, of Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPEAKER, I first met Mr. PARSONS on this floor shortly after the commencement of the present session of Congress. Our acquaintance rapidly grew into a firm and cordial friendship. In our brief association I learned to honor him for his virtues and respect him for his talents.

Nature had endowed him with superior mental faculties, which had been carefully cultivated in youth, and he preserved in manhood the tastes he then acquired. He was a man of genuine culture. Familiar with the best productions of the ancients, he loved to recall and dwell upon their beauties. He was especially fond of the German, and had read the master-pieces of that language. With the literature of his own language his acquaintance was extensive and intimate. It was apparent to those who knew him that he had read much and remembered what he had read.

Furthermore, he possessed a voice remarkable for its depth and compass, improved by all the graces of elocution. Thus qualified, he had before him a future full of hope and promise.

He was less than thirty-four years of age when he died; and yet I venture to say that "in all the points in which personal merit can be viewed,—in science, in erudition, in taste, in honor, in generosity, in humanity, in every liberal sentiment and every liberal accomplishment," he had few superiors in this body.

He was naturally of a retiring disposition, and seldom participated in the debates of this Chamber. Indeed he did so only when impelled by the interests of his constituency or his immediate duties as a member. In this, as in other deliberative bodies, the position a member occupies in public estimation is not always the true measure of his worth or abilities. If he is not fortunate in being allotted to prominent committees, he must make his reputation without the adventitious aids they afford. The committees on which Mr. PARSONS served did not invite newspaper reporters into their quiet retreat, nor did their labors receive much of the attention of the House or the public, notwithstanding the duties of the members were arduous, important, and frequently involved much research and learning.

Mr. PARSONS, in this capacity, prepared a number of reports. They give evidence of a high order of ability, and show, too, how faithfully and conscientiously he performed his quiet official duties. Doubtless he longed sometimes to enter the lists in the intellectual combats here witnessed. His young ambition no doubt aspired to court the applause that the public arena of the House afforded. His unobtrusive nature made him a cheerful observer of the triumphs of others.

He was a man of warm impulses. His cordial manners and tender emotions constituted the most beautiful traits of his character. Envy found no place in his bosom. He had a word of good cheer for all, and, as I often observed, was among the first to lend the assuring hand and offer the encouraging word to his fellow-members.

Those of us who sat nearest to him will not soon forget his accustomed kindly greetings, his buoyant spirits, and harmless pleasantries. No longer will we see his manly presence,—that fine, honest face, nor hear that deep-toned voice of EDWARD Y. PARSONS.

In the turmoil of business here, amid party strife and passion, the nobler qualities of our associates are too often overlooked. When death invades our Chamber our minds are brought to serious meditation. Then only do we fully realize the inner virtues of those whose death arrests our deliberations.

In EDWARD Y. PARSONS Kentucky has lost an honest, able, and faithful Representative and this House a valuable and efficient member.

In conclusion, permit me to say, Mr. Speaker, that few members have been removed by death from a seat in this House who will be more kindly remembered or sincerely regretted than our departed brother.

Address of Mr. LAWRENCE, of Ohio.

Mr. SPEAKER, the demise of a citizen of the United States while holding the position of a Representative in Congress can rarely ever fail to furnish some food for reflection. The loss of a member who has rendered long and useful service may naturally attract the widest attention. But the loss of one whose talents, education, and real merits have won the confidence of a constituency at an early age, whose career in Congress has been brilliant and useful, though comparatively brief, may be really greater than that of one whose "course is run." It is appointed unto all men once to die. He who has lived out his allotted time, who has finished his work, dies and disappoints no hopes. A life of usefulness *finished* finds its reward. Its purpose is complete. Its termination may indeed bring the pangs of sadness and sorrow. But sadder still it is when in the providence of God we are called to mourn the loss of one whose life in many respects has already accomplished much, but promising still more and more, is cut off in early manhood and in the midst of its usefulness.

In proportion as the inclination and capacity of a citizen and his opportunities for usefulness are great, to that extent will his loss be largely felt. There is perhaps no country in the world where so many opportunities for usefulness are open for a citizen to accomplish good among men as in this, the American Republic. Here is a land whose resources equal if they do not excel any other, and to a very large extent they await the hand of development and even of discovery. Here is a Government "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Here is a Republic which invites to participation in its affairs the talents and usefulness of every citizen whom the people may select to represent them or who may be selected in pursuance of law. This *combination* of material resources and political advantages, offering so many inducements to industry, repaying it with rewards so diversified and so liberal, offering to talent so many and so inviting fields for usefulness, finds here an immense population grown and growing with unequaled rapidity. A century of national existence "looks down upon us" with its lessons of experience from which all are ready and willing to profit, and in this morning of a second centennial a united people are resolved that henceforth we shall continue one and indivisible.

It is at such a *time* as this, so full of instructions from the past, of promise and of hope for the future, and in a *country* like this, demanding so fully the energies of talent and industry, and in a *Government* like this, where every representative in Congress is charged with a trust in which he may be useful to our own and other nations, and among a *people* whose prosperity and happiness demand watchfulness, wisdom, forbearance, and justice in deliberation and legislation in our national councils, that we are called upon to chronicle the decease of our departed friend, the late Hon. EDWARD Y. PARSONS, of Kentucky. Truth and justice, even more than usage, demand that we perform the sad and solemn duty of paying a tribute of respect to the memory of one so gifted by nature, so cultured by study, endowed with so many good qualities of head and heart, that he shared the respect, the confidence, the admiration and love of all who really knew him.

It belongs more appropriately to the immediate Representatives from Kentucky rather than to me to sketch in detail the history and leading events in the life of their late colleague in this House,

and this has been faithfully done. These are full of interest and instruction. They are such as to inspire young men with hope, and all men who know them with admiration.

It was my good fortune to make the personal acquaintance of our now departed friend at an early day in the present Congress. Even before that I knew of his deservedly high reputation as a scholar, as a lawyer, as a man of talents, and of the noble and generous impulses of his nature. I knew him as one of the leading lawyers of his native State of Kentucky, and of its largest commercial city of Louisville, distinguished for his learning, for his eloquence, and ability.

As one of the committee of this House which accompanied his remains to their last resting-place in the beautiful city of Louisville, which constituted a part of his district, I had opportunities to know that he shared the entire confidence and respect of the people whom he so ably and faithfully represented, and the sincerity of their sorrow at the loss they and the public sustained in his decease. Not Kentucky alone, but the whole public indeed may well feel this bereavement.

For wise purposes it has been ordained by nature and nature's God that men shall be and are endowed with an infinite variety in their tastes and capacities. The diversified wants of society make this a necessity. Poets and painters, and orators and statesmen, and scientists and writers of varied styles and orders are in some sense "born, not made." There is no *superabundance* of the most useful and highest order of talent. In this we find the "concord of a general plan."

It was to this high order of talent that EDWARD Y. PARSONS belonged. He was an orator by nature, and culture had largely enriched the gifts which nature bestowed. His powers in this

respect were so highly appreciated by those who knew him best that at an early age, while a tutor in the male high school of the city of Louisville, the board of school trustees instituted a chair of elocution and assigned him to its important duties. This, at so early an age, was no small honor in a city distinguished for the talent of its citizens and its patronage of the higher branches of education.

It is not very usual for a member of Congress during his first session to speak very frequently. Mr. PARSONS, though a new member, was by no means silent. He spoke when the interests of his constituents or the occasion required, and when he did so he spoke to the purpose ably and well. The State of Kentucky, in common with others, is deeply interested in the construction of the Texas and Pacific railroad. On the 14th of June Mr. PARSONS addressed the House in support of a bill proposing to aid the construction of this road. He argued with marked ability the question of the constitutional power of Congress to pass the bill, and the expediency of the measure. As a specimen of the *patriotic* sentiment which pervaded the entire speech I may quote a single paragraph, in which he said:

> If there be any sincerity in the oft-repeated asseverations made upon this floor during the present session of Congress that the disposition of the people is to forget past differences, and in the practices of friendship and patriotism to perfect the Union of the States, and if it be true that a general amnesty is desired, it may be said that in the construction of this road as proposed an important step *will be taken in the direction of the consummation* wished. The North, the East, the West, and the South will join not only in the profitable embrace of commerce, but in that intercourse which, familiarizing each with all, strengthens the bond which now unites them and verifies the assertion of peace and good-will. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Gulf to the lakes the effects of this great highway will be felt and its advantages realized. *No better period can be imagined than the present for the encouragement of sentiments of union, and no more fitting monument can be erected to mark the complete reconciliation of the sections.*

And as a specimen of that eloquence which seemed to flow with

easy grace and elegant force from his lips I may quote another paragraph, in which he said:

> The ancient cities of the world have been celebrated for their arts and their arms. The fame of their sculpture and their architecture has reached even unto us. Their conquests were glorious, the scholars cultured, their poets and orators, who are with us to-day, incomparable, and on the pages of history their works are emblazoned. They have erected monuments to the energy, industry, grace, love, valor, and enterprise of their respective cities.
>
> Indebted, as we are, to their brilliant examples in literature and science for whatever of excellence we may have attained, we feel constrained to say that more enduring monuments than works of art, statuary, grouping and painting remain for us to contemplate. The Appian Way will be remembered when the name of Cato is thought of only by the scholar, and the great roads of Rome will prove more lasting reminders of the success of her arts than the conquest of Gaul or the fame of Cæsar.
>
> Splendid as were their achievements in arms, material improvements in the territory of conquests are better remembered than the battles of warriors, and causeways and roads are the enduring monuments to glory. Facilitating commerce, they destroy sloth in the mart; promoting intercourse, they abolish differences of opinion; and embracing sections, they establish harmony.

At an earlier day in the session, on the 16th of February, the House had under consideration a bill to reorganize the judiciary of the United States.

The bill proposed to create new courts of appeal. One of the questions presented on an amendment was whether one of these courts should be located at Cincinnati or Louisville.

In a few remarks which I submitted I advocated the location at Cincinnati. Mr. PARSONS replied with great force and power in an able speech in favor of the location at Louisville. Though he had no previous opportunity to know this question would arise, he met it with a force of logic which left nothing to be added on that side of the question and which proved his masterly ability in debate.

But it is unnecessary now to refer to more of his course in Congress. That is well understood here and by the public. However much members here may have differed in opinion on important questions of public policy, no one ever doubted the sincerity and

honesty of purpose of Mr. PARSONS. He combined in his character that "*suaviter in modo et fortiter in re*" which inspired respect without giving offense to any.

The light of a great intellect has gone out. A citizen of Kentucky and of the United States, distinguished for learning, ability, and talents, alike honest and honored in public and private life for mental and moral and personal worth, is no more.

Kentucky mourns his loss and the whole Republic shares alike her sorrow and her bereavement, for it is not alone the loss of any State, but more even than a loss to all. This must be so, because we cannot fail to realize that truth so well announced by Sir William Jones, that:

> —— men, high-minded men,
> *These* constitute a state.

The universal sentiment of all who knew our now-departed friend is that as a husband, a father, as a member of society, as a private citizen, in all the relations of life, he was kind, generous, just, endowed with every noble quality which rendered him worthy to be endeared to all.

And then the resolutions were agreed to, and the House accordingly adjourned.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE.

SATURDAY, *July 8, 1876.*

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. G. M. Adams, its Clerk, communicated to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Mr. EDWARD Y. PARSONS, late a member of the House from the State of Kentucky, and transmitted the resolutions of the House thereon.

Mr. McCREERY. Mr. President, I ask for the reading of the resolutions of the House of Representatives.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore.* The Chair will lay before the Senate the resolutions referred to.

The Chief Clerk read as follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
July 8, 1876.

Mr. KNOTT submitted the following, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That a committee of seven members be appointed by the Speaker of the House to take order for superintending the funeral of Hon. EDWARD Y. PARSONS, late a member of this body from the State of Kentucky.

Resolved, That as a mark of the respect entertained by the House for the memory of Hon. EDWARD Y. PARSONS, his remains be removed to Louisville, Kentucky, in charge of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and attended by the said committee, who shall have full power to carry this resolution into effect.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these proceedings to the Senate.

Resolved, That as an additional mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the House do now adjourn.

Mr. McCREERY. I offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Senate has received with deep sensibility the announcement of the death of Hon. E. Y. PARSONS, late a member of the House of Representatives from the State of Kentucky.

Resolved, That as an additional mark of respect for the memory of the deceased the Senate do now adjourn.

The resolutions were agreed to unanimously, and the Senate adjourned.

August 1, 1876.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. G. M. Adams, its Clerk, communicated to the Senate a copy of the proceedings this day had in the House in reference to the death of Hon. EDWARD Y. PARSONS, late a member from the State of Kentucky.

Mr. McCREERY called for the reading of the proceedings of the House of Representatives.

The Chief Clerk read as follows:

IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
August 1, 1876.

Resolved, That this House has heard with deep regret of the death of Hon. EDWARD Y. PARSONS, late a member of this House from the State of Kentucky.

Resolved, That as a testimony of respect to his memory the officers and members of this body will wear the usual badge of mourning for the space of thirty days.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by the Clerk of this House to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That the Clerk be directed to communicate a copy of these proceedings to the Senate, and that as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased this House do now adjourn.

Mr. McCREERY. My friend and colleague of the House of Representatives, Hon. EDWARD YOUNG PARSONS, is no more. He has been cut off in the flower of his youth and in the strength of his manhood. He entered political life at the opening of this session of Congress, and before its close his mortal remains have been consigned to the grave. He inherited the stalwart form, the easy grace, and the commanding talents of his father, whose fame as an actor and as a pulpit orator is still fresh and green in the memories of the American people. If the son had been spared, his gentleness, his culture, and his genius would have placed the name on a foundation more solid and enduring. In person, in acquirement, and in mental endowment he stood far above ordinary men, and,

take him all in all, we are not likely soon to "look upon his like again." But he is gone! The devoted husband, the fond father, the steadfast friend, and the able and incorruptible public servant sleeps with his fathers. We will forget his faults and remember his many virtues.

Mr. STEVENSON. Mr. President, the sad event announced so feelingly to the Senate by my colleague admonishes us that death comes to the young as to the old. EDWARD YOUNG PARSONS was among the youngest members of the House. He took his seat for the first time at the beginning of the present session. Gifted in intellect, of high culture, and possessed of varied information, he gave promise and great hope of brilliant distinction; but death has set its seal upon all these bright hopes. Young as he is, he sleeps in a new-made grave.

I beg leave, sir, to offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Senate has received with sincere sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. EDWARD YOUNG PARSONS, late a member of the House of Representatives from the State of Kentucky.

Resolved, That from a sincere respect for the memory of the deceased the members of the Senate will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect for the memory of the deceased the Senate do now adjourn.

The resolutions were agreed to unanimously, and the Senate adjourned.

In Memoriam.

[AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED TO THE LATE HON. E. Y. PARSONS.]

Stricken by fate's unyielding grasp,
Severed from love's detaining clasp,
  Summoned in life's bright noon;
Thus was our dear one called away,
Scorched by the summer's fervid ray—
  Crushed by its fell simoon.

Ne'er gathered the Reaper fruit more fair,
Never the shadow of dark despair
  Fell on a deeper woe:
Gone from his task but half complete,
Gone from caresses kind and sweet
  Into death's arms of snow.

Gone from his country's august claim,
Where he, from the lofty dome of fame,
  Hung like a bright pole star;
Swift as a sunbeam snatched away
By a sudden cloud, when an April day
  Broods in the heavens afar.

Forth with a spirit to do and dare,
Manly and noble—a foe to fear—
  Into earth's strife he came;
Reached for a chaplet glory-lined,
Till o'er his brow it brightly twined
  Decked with the bays of fame.

Out of that eye's effulgent beam,
Lit with the mind's immortal gleam,
  Looked a beneficent soul;
One that with joy could promptly thrill,
Weep with the sad when fate's cold chill
  Bade the grief-torrent roll.

Cold is the hand once raised in power,
When in the wild, exciting hour
  He pleaded his client's calls;
Silent the voice whose clarion song
Held in its spell the breathless throng
  Crowded in judgment halls.

Beyond the realms of celestial blue,
Where thy spirit, so brave and true,
  Doth in its purity dwell—
Say, is the essence which guards thee nigh,
Impervious to the anguished sigh
  Which shatters our heart's deep cell?

God knows; to our plea he will grant reply
When gathered in realms beyond the sky
  We study immortal lore;
Then shall be taken from sorrow's knell,
And from this cruel, last farewell,
  The sting forevermore.

MRS. H. B. PARSONS.

LOUISVILLE, *July* 12, 1876.

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